

*DELPHINUS TRUNCATUS* MONTAGU, 1821 (MAMMALIA, CETACEA): PROPOSED CONSERVATION BY SUPPRESSION OF *DELPHINUS NESARNACK* LACÉPÈDE, 1804. Z.N.(S.)2082

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The purpose of this application is to request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *nesarnack* Lacépède, 1804, as published in the binomen *Delphinus nesarnack* (Hist. nat. cétacés, vol. 40, p. 307, pl. 15, fig. 2), and concomitantly to ensure that the specific name *truncatus* Montagu, 1821, as published in the binomen *Delphinus truncatus* (Mem. Wernerian nat. Hist. Soc., vol. 3, p. 75, pl. 3) is conserved.

2. The name *Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu, 1821) has been in almost universal use for the North Atlantic bottlenose dolphin since 1903 (True, F. W. 1903. A note on the common bottlenose porpoise of the North Atlantic, *Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu) Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philadelphia, pp. 313–314), and has been used in all of the numerous recent publications on this important species, including the following:

- Corbet, G. B. & Hill, J. E. 1980. *A world list of mammalian species*. London, British Museum (Natural History)
- Dailey, M. D. 1976. *J. Wildl. Dis.*, vol. 12(1), pp. 45–51
- Ellerman, J. R. & Morrison-Scott, T. C. S. 1951. *Checklist of Palaearctic and Indian mammals*. London, British Museum (Natural History)
- Fraser, F. C. 1974. *Report on Cetacea stranded on British coasts from 1948 to 1966*. London, British Museum (Natural History)
- Hershkovitz, P. 1966. *Catalog of living whales*. Washington, Smithsonian Institution
- Irvine, A. B., Scott, M. D., Wells, R. S. & Kaufman, J. H. 1981. *Fishery Bull. natn. ocean. atmos. Adm.*, vol. 79(4), pp. 671–688
- Lear, R. J. & Bryden, M. M. 1980. *Aust. nat. Parks Wildl. Serv. Occas. Pap.*, vol. 4, pp. 1–25
- Leatherwood, S. 1975. *Mar. Fish. Rev.*, vol. 37(9), pp. 10–16
- Leatherwood, S., Deerman, M. W. & Potter, C. W. 1978. *Cetology*, vol. 28, pp. 1–6
- Lock, C. 1978. *J. nat. Hist.*, vol. 12, pp. 513–528
- Mitchell, E. 1975. *Porpoise, dolphin and small whale fisheries of the world*. Morges, I.U.C.N.
- Purves, P. E. & van Bree, P. J. H. 1972. *Beaufortia*, vol. 20(260), pp. 15–21
- Ross, G. J. B. 1977. *Ann. Cape prov. Mus.*, vol. 11(9), pp. 135–194
- Sargeant, D. E., Caldwell, D. K. & Caldwell, M. C. 1973. *J. Fish. Res. Bd. Can.*, vol. 30, pp. 1009–1011

3. Hershkovitz (1961, *Fieldiana Zool.*, vol. 39(49), p. 550) regards *Delphinus nesarnack* Lacépède, 1804, as a senior subjective synonym of *Delphinus truncatus*. Therefore Hershkovitz (*op. cit.* and 1963, *J. Mammal.*, vol. 44(1), pp. 98–103) employed the name *Tursiops nesarnack* Lacépède,

1804 for the North Atlantic bottlenose dolphin. Later Herschkovitz (1966, *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, vol. 246, pp. 52–55) treated *truncatus* as a nomen conservandum. E. R. Hall (1981, *The Mammals of North America*, John Wiley & Sons, New York, p. 886) is the only subsequent author who has used *nesarnack*.

4. The type specimen of *Delphinus nesarnack* was originally deposited at the Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort. Dr Daniel Robineau of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Centre National d'Étude des Mammifères) has written to say that no trace of it can be found at either institution.

5. Substitution of the name *nesarnack* for *truncatus* would upset long-standing nomenclatural stability and universality for this well known species, causing confusion.

6. For the reasons listed above I now request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature;

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *nesarnack* Lacépède, 1804, as published in the binomen *Delphinus nesarnack*, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the specific name *truncatus* Montagu, 1821, as published in the binomen *Delphinus truncatus*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *nesarnack* Lacépède, 1804, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.